

Provision of Livestock: Process Case Study

Livestock distribution following the Pakistan earthquake

Shortly after the 2005 Pakistan earthquake struck, and following initial responses such as the distribution of food, tents, and blankets, the German Red Cross initiated an activity to improve the nutritional status of children in households affected by the earthquake by providing a lactating cow with a calf to targeted households. The target participants had either lost all their animals or were vulnerable households (such as female-headed or poor households with more than four children) which may not have owned livestock in the past. Village-based committees, which included representatives from among the elders, different castes, women, religious leaders, and teachers, were established to oversee participant selection. The selection was cross-checked by field visits and community discussions.

Before the livestock were distributed, the participants received training in livestock management, including feeding, breeding, and animal health. Certain breeds and types of cattle were selected, based on agreed criteria such as adaptability to the cold climate, milk production, size, and age. Local contractors supplied the cows, which were checked by the Red Cross and treated for mastitis and ticks; they were also vaccinated and disinfected prior to distribution. A lottery system was used for the actual distribution.

Community animal health workers (CAHWs) were also trained in each village, and refresher training continued throughout the life of the project. Plans were put in place to link the CAHWs to specific government veterinary services such as artificial insemination and bull schemes.

Source: Matthew Kinyanjui, personal communication, 2008.